

**Statement by Poland
to be delivered at the 15th Special Session of the Human Rights Council
on the 25th February 2011**

Mr. President,

Let me start with stressing that it is the obligation of the Council to address the cases of gross and systematic violations of human rights whenever and wherever they occur. Thus, we welcome convening this special session which demonstrates the Council's ability to react in a swiftly and timely manner to the urgent human rights situations.

Mr. President,

Poland aligns itself with the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

We have been observing the latest events in Libya with shock and deep concern. We particularly deplore the use of violence and the death of high number of civilians. We join appeals for an immediate end to the use of force against protesters. We further stress that the freedom of expression and the right to assemble peacefully are human rights and fundamental freedoms of every human being which must be respected and protected. Therefore, deeply concerned about the mounting number of civilian casualties and with the aim to prevent its widespread we call on the Libyan authorities to take adequate measures to observe and protect the human rights and freedoms as well as safety of civilians. Similar serious concerns have been also recently expressed by a number of international institutions, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We call on the government of Libya to refrain from the use of force immediately. The legitimate aspirations and demands of people for reform should become the ground for open, inclusive, meaningful and national Libyan-led dialogue that would bring a positive and constructive results for the country and for the people. We strongly encourage all sides in this respect.

Mr. President,

The Libyan state must reassume its responsibility to protect its people and citizens of third countries and uphold the highest standards of international law, that were earlier accepted by it voluntarily. Upholding the highest possible human rights standards is the particular responsibility of the Council's member. We would like to support the justified and rightful aspirations and demands of Libyan people calling for reform. We would like also to stress that they should be realized through the open and free dialogue. Therefore, once again we call on the Libyan authorities to put an end to the all human rights violations. We call for the protection of all the people in Libya, including citizens of third countries and finally, we call on the Human Rights Council to fulfill its duties and obligations and act urgently.

We hope for the broad support of the submitted resolution on the situation of human rights in Libya and we would like to assure you that it gets ours.

Thank you Mr. President.